

Corinth Unit consists of approximately 20 acres of land and is the future site of an interpretive center.

The Battle of Shiloh took place in April of 1862 and is considered to be one of the most important battles of the Civil War. Thousands of men died in the 2-day battle with the Union forces; and as a result of the Battle of Shiloh, Confederate troops were forced to withdraw southward.

The Union armies remained intact enough and to continue their southward advancement, eventually taking Vicksburg and Port Hudson in 1863. The Union advance essentially cut the South in half and many knew at this point it was solely a matter of time before the Union would prevail.

The Battle of Corinth played a large part in the overall battle of Shiloh. Because of this, S. 1117 would direct the Secretary of the Interior to manage and protect the resources associated with the Battle of Corinth by establishing the Corinth Unit as part of the Shiloh National Military Park.

This bill also provides for a resource study to be conducted by the Secretary to determine whether certain other additional properties are appropriate for inclusion in the newly established unit.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support S. 1117.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN), the chairman of the Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands. I know the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. ROMERO-BARCELO), my colleague and good friend, is on his way.

Mr. Speaker, as the ranking member of the Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands, I am just pinch-hitting for the gentleman from Puerto Rico.

Mr. Speaker, the area in and around the city of Corinth, Mississippi, near the Mississippi-Tennessee border, played a significant role in several early chapters of the American Civil War. Corinth was the crossroads of two rail-lines vital to Confederate supply efforts, and the city served as the front line of the western theater of battle.

The battle of Shiloh in April 1862 was launched after 44,000 Confederate troops had withdrawn to Corinth to regroup and to resupply forces.

Several weeks later, Union forces briefly laid siege to the city, finally overtaking Corinth and holding it for the rest of the war. The site of the Battle of Shiloh is a national military park but does not include the city of Corinth. However, in 1996, Congress authorized the establishment of an interpretive center for the Corinth campaign.

Mr. Speaker, S. 1117 offered by the majority leader from the other body, the gentleman from Mississippi, would build on that effort by establishing Corinth as an official unit of the Shiloh National Military Park. The new unit would consist of the 21-acre site selected for that interpretive center, plus any additional land, owned by a public or a nonprofit entity, which the Secretary determines to be suitable.

The legislation contains provisions for management of the new unit, future land acquisition, a special resource study of the area and authorizes an additional \$3 million for the construction of that interpretive center.

This legislation has the support of the administration and bipartisan support of both sides of the aisle in this committee.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Corinth Battlefield Preservation Act. This legislation authorizes \$3 million for the construction of the Corinth-Civil War Preservation and Interpretive Center and its inclusion into the Shiloh National Military Park. The bill gives Corinth its proper status as one of America's most pivotal and important Civil War sites. I would first like to thank my colleague from Utah, the distinguished Chairman of the Resources Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands, Mr. HANSEN, and the Ranking Member, Mr. ROMERO-BARCELO, for holding a hearing on this important legislation in April. The bill before us today is the companion to H.R. 2249, which I introduced.

As legendary Civil War historian Ed Bearss proclaimed, "The Battle of Corinth was the bloodiest battle in the State of Mississippi. Troops were brought from New Orleans, Mobile, Texas, and Arkansas because Corinth was such an important place. With the fall of Corinth, Perryville, Kentucky, and Antietam, Maryland, the Confederacy was lost." We owe it to our ancestors and to future generations to protect Corinth and the abundance of Civil War history in this small town.

Corinth, referred to as the "Vertebrae of the South," was the intersection of the Memphis & Charleston railroad and the Mobile & Ohio railroad which connected the Confederate States of America from the Mississippi River to the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico. Each side recognized its significance. In a telegram to Secretary of War Edwin Stanton in May of 1862, Union General W.H. Halleck expressed the importance of Corinth: "Richmond and Corinth are now the great strategical points of war, and our success at these points should be insured at all hazards," the telegram read.

Mr. Speaker, the Battle of Corinth also involved one of the first uses of "earthworks" as part of modern warfare. These trenches, which would later be used extensively in World Wars I and II, are considered to be among the largest and best-preserved fortification groups in the nation but are in danger of being lost forever.

Sites such as the Corinth battlefield are far too important to be known only through history books. We need places where Americans can come and see history right before their eyes. Although the Corinth Battlefield has been designated as a National Historic Landmark, it is still considered a "Civil War Landmark At

Risk" by the Civil War Site Advisory Commission.

For over one hundred years, the United States Congress has advanced the idea that our national interest is best served by preserving America's historic treasures, not only by ensuring the proper interpretation of important historic events, but also the places and properties where important military milestones occurred.

Mr. Speaker, this outstanding preservation effort would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of Mrs. Rosemary Williams and the Siege and Battle of Corinth Commission, along with the people of Corinth, and Alcorn County, Mississippi. This bipartisan bill is widely supported by local, state, regional, and national preservation organizations. We must take this necessary step to protect our heritage so that generations to come can gain an understanding of the struggles of our great nation. Events such as the Siege and Battle of Corinth have helped shape our American democracy and have transformed our diverse states and citizens into a united and prosperous nation, better prepared to meet the challenges and opportunities of the future.

I urge my colleagues to support the Corinth Battlefield Preservation Act.

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 1117.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### BLACK REVOLUTIONARY WAR PATRIOTS MEMORIAL

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4957) to amend the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 to extend the legislative authority for the Black Patriots Foundation to establish a commemorative work.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4957

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. BLACK REVOLUTIONARY WAR PATRIOTS MEMORIAL.

Section 506 of the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 (40 U.S.C. 1003 note; 110 Stat. 4155) is amended by striking "2000" and inserting "2005".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) and the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN).

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.